

From: ["Thomas. Hattie" </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE:GROUP \(FYDIBOHF23SPDLT\)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=B1EBAFC79FA94F308D9F6EBB0424E75A-THOMAS.HATTIE>](mailto:Thomas.Hattie@EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE:GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=B1EBAFC79FA94F308D9F6EBB0424E75A-THOMAS.HATTIE)  
To:  
CC:  
Date: 1/24/2014 4:47:47 PM  
Subject: OPA Daily Digest 1/24/14

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## OPA Daily Digest for 01/24/14

### Congressional Inquiries:

**Rep. Dave Loebsack** (Iowa): 1/23/14. Requests an update on a constituent's FOIA appeal. Due: 1/30/14. Contact: LaTonya Sanders, 7555 (open)

**Sen. Charles Grassley** (Iowa): 1/23/14. Requests that EPA respond timely to the Missouri River Public Water Supplies Association, regarding clarification on requirements applicable to water treatment plant discharges. Due: 2/6/14. Contact: LaTonya Sanders, 7555 (open)

**Sen. Claire McCaskill** (Mo): 1/23/14. Requests an update on EPA projects in southwest Missouri. Due: 1/30/14. Contact: LaTonya Sanders, 7555 (open)

**Sen. Claire McCaskill** (Mo): 1/23/14. Letters of support for Brownfields grant applicants. Due: 2/6/14. Contact: LaTonya Sanders, 7555 (open)

### State and Local Government Inquiries:

**Rep Bill Otto** (Mo): 1/12/14 - Question on work being done at the Westlake Site. Contact: Sarah Hatch, 7199 (open)

**Legislative Liaison-Office of the Director** (Neb.): 1/23/14 – Requesting bill review and comment. Contact: Sarah Hatch, 7199 (open)

**Rep. Sue Meredith** (Mo) – 1/24/14: Requesting a Map of the Chicago Heights site. Contact: Sarah Hatch, 7199 (open)

### Press Inquiries:

**Iowa Public Television** – John Nichols – 1/23/14: Initiated conversation about arranging an interview with the regional administrator about Iowa nutrient reduction efforts on Feb. 11 or Feb. 12 at the studio in Johnston, Iowa. Contact: Kris Lancaster, 7557 (closed)

**WHO-TV, Des Moines, Iowa** – Brandon Blue – 1/22/14: Initiated conversation about arranging an interview on Feb. 11 with the regional administrator and IDNR Director about Iowa nutrient reduction efforts. Contact: Kris Lancaster, 7557 (closed)

**Joplin Globe** – Roger McKinney – 1/24/14: Questions about the Oronogo-Duenweg site cleanup status. Contact: Ben Washburn, 7364 (open)

**Lincoln Journal-Star** – Nick Bergman – 1/24/14: Questions about the Renewable Fuels Standards. Contact: Ben Washburn, 7364 (closed)

## Environmental Stories:

**Sioux City Journal - Iowa groups, elected officials slam EPA's renewable fuel plan** - 1/24/14 - Speakers at Iowa's Hearing in the Heartland dropped the hammer Thursday on the federal government's plan to roll back the Renewable Fuel Standard, charging the change would hurt rural jobs, investments and the environment while increasing America's reliance on foreign oil.

[http://siouxcityjournal.com/ap/lee/iowa-groups-elected-officials-slam-epa-s-renewable-fuel-plan/article\\_990322ed-e561-56d0-8e0c-4b135a45c006.html](http://siouxcityjournal.com/ap/lee/iowa-groups-elected-officials-slam-epa-s-renewable-fuel-plan/article_990322ed-e561-56d0-8e0c-4b135a45c006.html)

**Domestic Fuel - Obama, EPA Needs to Listen to Midwesterners** - 1/24/14 - Hundreds of people from the Midwest turned out to submit comments today to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) at the "Hearing in the Heartland: Supporting the Renewable Fuel Standard" hosted by Iowa Governor Terry Branstad and Lt. Governor Kim Reynolds.

<http://domesticfuel.com/2014/01/23/obama-epa-needs-to-listen-to-midwesterners/>

**Muscatine Journal - EPA to review 2013 biofuels requirement** - 1/24/14 - Just as renewable fuel backers were holding a hearing Thursday to fight the Environmental Protection Agency's proposal to cut the 2014 renewable fuel standard, the federal agency said it will now review the amount of cellulosic biofuel it required last year for use in the nation's fuel supply. The decision came after a request from the petroleum industry.

[http://muscatinejournal.com/news/state-and-regional/iowa/epa-to-review-biofuels-requirement/article\\_24cd10cb-9283-59a3-b5dd-4e198bea36d5.html](http://muscatinejournal.com/news/state-and-regional/iowa/epa-to-review-biofuels-requirement/article_24cd10cb-9283-59a3-b5dd-4e198bea36d5.html)

**Sioux City Journal - DIGEST: Branstad hopeful EPA could modify RFS proposal** - 1/24/14 - One day after a pro-ethanol hearing in Iowa, Gov. Terry Branstad told members of the state's Partnership for Economic Partnership (PEP) board he was "a little more encouraged" that federal Environmental Protection Agency could modify or rescind its proposed changes to the Renewable Fuel Standard.

[http://siouxcityjournal.com/news/local/govt-and-politics/digest-branstad-hopeful-epa-could-modify-rfs-proposal/article\\_ff424ccd-5f44-588a-852c-382972ae03a4.html](http://siouxcityjournal.com/news/local/govt-and-politics/digest-branstad-hopeful-epa-could-modify-rfs-proposal/article_ff424ccd-5f44-588a-852c-382972ae03a4.html)

**Sioux City Journal - Ethanol advocates join for hearing in Des Moines** - 1/23/14 - Gov. Terry Branstad gathered Midwestern politicians and ethanol supporters in Des Moines on Thursday for a daylong hearing to criticize a proposal from the Environmental Protection Agency to reduce the amount of ethanol that must be blended with gasoline. The EPA has proposed reducing by nearly 3 billion gallons the amount of biofuels required to be blended into gasoline in 2014.

[http://siouxcityjournal.com/ap/state/ethanol-advocates-join-for-hearing-in-des-moines/article\\_c4e77107-02ca-5f78-81a7-debc0c6c72af.html](http://siouxcityjournal.com/ap/state/ethanol-advocates-join-for-hearing-in-des-moines/article_c4e77107-02ca-5f78-81a7-debc0c6c72af.html)

**KMALand - Biodiesel works for best outcome** - 1/24/13 - A letter writing campaign to support biodiesel is in the home stretch, and advocates hope a final push at this week's National Biodiesel Conference and Expo in San Diego will be enough to convince the government not to hurt the industry. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) wants to cut the Renewable Fuels Standard (RFS) by 16 percent, which would stifle biodiesel growth.

[http://www.kmaland.com/ag/biodiesel-works-for-best-outcome/article\\_16e01154-84fd-11e3-bcb6-001a4bcf6878.html](http://www.kmaland.com/ag/biodiesel-works-for-best-outcome/article_16e01154-84fd-11e3-bcb6-001a4bcf6878.html)

**Shreveport Times - The Register's Editorial: Iowa's troubling dead animal double standard** - 1/24/14 - But it's good to know the DNR cares about groundwater and is willing to impose the maximum penalty on those it perceives as putting our groundwater at risk, because it was less than two years ago that the agency was warned by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for not adequately regulating large-scale agriculture operations.

<http://www.shreveporttimes.com/article/D2/20140124/OPINION03/301240063/The-Register-s-Editorial-Iowa-s-troubling-dead-animal-double-standard>

**Fox News - Energy efficiency measures in homes may lead to higher risk of lung cancer** - 1/24/14 - Sealing up houses to improve energy efficiency also traps more radon inside and may lead to a higher risk of lung cancer, according to a new study based on modeling. Guidelines suggest people install ventilation systems when they try to reduce heat loss from their homes.

<http://www.foxnews.com/health/2014/01/24/energy-efficiency-measures-in-homes-may-lead-to-higher-risk-lung-cancer/?intcmp=latestnews>

**Mason City Globe Gazette - King urges no cuts in renewable fuel standards** - 1/24/14 - U.S. Rep Steve King, R-Iowa, said Thursday there should be no reduction in the federal renewable fuel standards -- and questioned why U.S. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack has been silent about it. The Environmental Protection Agency is proposing to reduce the

fuel requirement in 2014 to 15.2 billion gallons of ethanol and biofuels -- 3 billion gallons less than what Congress required in 2007. The result would be harmful to the production of ethanol and other biofuels, critics argue.

[http://globegazette.com/news/local/king-urges-no-cuts-in-renewable-fuel-standards/article\\_97b25223-0869-55db-b088-9f7870951e00.html](http://globegazette.com/news/local/king-urges-no-cuts-in-renewable-fuel-standards/article_97b25223-0869-55db-b088-9f7870951e00.html)

**Personal Liberty Digest - The EPA's Cozy Relationship With Environmental Activists Revealed; Former Official Says Agency Wants To 'Change' Capitalism** - 1/24/14 - To the horror of American conservatives and job creators, the Environmental Protection Agency has enjoyed a massive expansion in its regulatory authority under the Administration of Barack Obama. The EPA's public agenda — which includes major regulations to limit industrial, power plant and auto emissions as well as a major expansion of the agency's authority regulate bodies of water on private land — continues to elicit public censure.

<http://personalliberty.com/2014/01/24/the-epas-cozy-relationship-with-environmental-activists-revealed-former-official-says-agency-wants-to-change-capitalism/>

**Bloomberg BNA - EPA Defends Three Fracking Investigations, Will Work With States to Prevent Pollution** - 1/24/14 - The Environmental Protection Agency is working with states and will continue to do so to prevent or investigate groundwater contamination from shale gas drilling, EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy told a prominent environmental advocate. McCarthy in a letter Jan. 10 was responding to a September letter from Frances Beinecke, president of the Natural Resources Defense Council, who accused the EPA of "a troubling trend of abandoning investigations of hydraulic fracturing before they are completed."

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2014-01-24/epa-defends-three-fracking-investigations-will-work-with-states-to-prevent-pollution.html>

**Forbes - EPA Considers Rolling Back 2013 Target For Advanced Biofuels** - 1/24/14 - The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency said on Thursday that it would reconsider the 2013 cellulosic ethanol mandate, which requires oil refiners to blend a specific amount of advanced biofuels made from grasses, trees and crop waste into gasoline.

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/williampentland/2014/01/24/epa-considers-rolling-back-2013-target-for-advanced-biofuels/>

**Water World - EPA announces nearly \$5M in grants to protect U.S. watersheds** - 1/24/14 - The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently announced grants totalling nearly \$5 million for five universities as part of the organization's safe and sustainable water resources research program. The endeavor strives to evaluate innovative green infrastructure practices in urban areas, with the city of Philadelphia, Pa., used as the pilot area.

<http://www.waterworld.com/articles/2014/01/epa-announces-nearely-5m-in-grants-to-protect-u-s-watersheds.html>

**Fox News - Top Republican says EPA fraudster revelations 'first layer of a very big onion'** - 1/24/14 - The top Republican on the Senate environment committee said Thursday that newly released transcripts showing an ex-EPA official discussing his widespread fraud against the government -- as well as a pet "project" to "modify" capitalism -- are likely "the first layer of a very big onion" at the EPA. Sen. David Vitter, R-La., is continuing to call for a hearing before the Environment and Public Works Committee on the case of John Beale.

<http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2014/01/24/top-republican-says-epa-fraudster-claims-first-layer-very-big-onion/>

**Greenwire - EPA loses its 'voice'** - 1/24/14 - Dale Kemery decided at age 6 he wanted to be a radio star. "Every Sunday night I used to glue my ear to the radio," said Kemery, 73, who recalled listening to radio legends Jack Benny, Phil Harris and Alice Faye. "My dad made me a microphone, which was made out of a dowel and a piece of wood -- a piece of two-by-four painted red. I loved my mic."

<http://www.eenews.net/greenwire/stories/1059993421>

**The Equation - West Virginia Scientists to EPA, CDC: Allow Your Scientists to Speak** - 1/24/14 - This morning, two dozen West Virginia scientists wrote to the CDC and EPA to urge the two agencies to give more freedom to their scientists to communicate with the press and public, especially during emergencies like the ongoing water contamination crisis affecting hundreds of thousands of West Virginians.

<http://blog.ucsusa.org/west-virginia-scientists-to-epa-cdc-allow-your-scientists-to-speak-389>

## Press Releases:

Link to all R7 press releases: <http://go.usa.gov/Qx5>

None

## **Fact Sheets:**

Link to all R7 fact sheets: <http://www.epa.gov/region7/factsheets>

None

## **Upcoming Administrator/RA Events:**

\* New additions noted with an asterisk

**2/5/14** – Regional Tribal Operations Committee, Lenexa, Kan., Wolfgang Brandner, 7381

**2/11/14** – Agribusiness Showcase Conference, Des Moines, Kris Lancaster, 7557

**2/12/14** – Iowa Legislation Availability Session, Des Moines. Sarah Hatch, 7199

**2/20/14** – Air & Waste Management Association Mid-West Chapter Annual Conference, Overland Park, Kan., Becky Weber, 7487

**\*3/8/14** – Sierra Club 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference, Topeka, Kan. Contact: Hattie Thomas, 7762

**\*3/18-19/14** – RA/DRA Joint Meeting, Denver, Colo., Contact: Julia Cacho, 7071

**\*3/31/14** – Society of Fellows Symposium, Lawrence, Kan. Contact: Hattie Thomas, 7762

## **DRA:**

**2/5/14** – Regional Tribal Operations Committee, Lenexa, Kan., Wolfgang Brandner, 7381

## **RA/Immediate Office**

None

## **Other Events**

## **AWMD**

None

## **CNSL**

None

## **ECO/EJ**

None

**ENSV**

None

**PLMG**

**1/27/14** – Missouri State University, Student Resume Review Frenzy Workshop, Springfield, [Mo](#). Contact: Michael Butkovich, 7189.

**RA/OPA**

None

**SUPR**

None

**WWPD**

**1/23-25/14** – Big River Task Force Meeting, Columbia, Mo, continuing to Big River Watershed Workshop, Lake Ozark, Mo. Contacts: Jeannette Schafer, 7297, Terri Brink, 7337

**1/28/14** – Missouri Nutrient Reduction Committee Meeting with Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Jefferson City, Mo. Contact: Bob Angelo, 7060

**2/6/14** – Missouri Clean Water Commission Meeting, Jefferson City, Mo. Contact: Bob Angelo, 7060

Hattie L. Thomas

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